

URBAN DISTRICT OF SEDGLEY.

ANNUAL REPORTS

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND

SANITARY INSPECTOR

FOR YEAR 1921.



DUDLEY :

PRINTED AT THE HERALD PRESS.

1922.

Chairman of the Health Committee :

Mr. S. R. PARKER.

Medical Officer of Health :

A. M. McMILLAN, M.B., Ch.B.

Sanitary Inspector :

WILLIAM WANE, C.S.I.

STATISTICAL SUMMARY, 1921.

Area, 3,854 acres.

Population, Census 17,301. Registrar-General (for this report)
17,670.

Number of inhabited houses (1921), 3,434.

Number of families or separate occupiers, 3,900 (approximately).

Rateable value, £42,356.

Sum represented by a penny rate, £147.

General District Rate, 5/6 in the £.

Poor Rate, 8/8 in the £.

Birth rate, 25.4.

Death rate, 11.1.

Infantile death rate per 1,000 births, 80.0.

Zymotic death rate, 0.5.

Total deaths from Diarrhœa, 3.

Deaths from Pulmonary Tuberculosis, 0.56.

REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR 1921.

*To the Chairman and Members of the Sedgley Urban
District Council.*

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit to you my Report for the year 1921. The Ministry of Health has decided that Annual Reports shall be of two kinds: a Survey report, containing full and detailed particulars of the district, to be issued every five years, and an Ordinary report, of a more simple character, consisting principally of statistics, to be issued annually. This year's report will be of the Ordinary type and will appear very different from that usually presented.

VITAL STATISTICS.

The total number of births registered during the year 1921 was 449—237 males and 212 females; of these, 11 were illegitimate—7 males and 4 females. This gives a birth rate of 25.4 per 1,000, and is a decrease of 4.5 as compared with last year, when it was 29.9. There were 49 births less in 1921. The total number of deaths registered was 206, as compared with 225 last year; of these 110 were males and 96 females. This gives a death rate of 11.1 per 1,000. Last year the death rate was 13.5.

The number of women dying in, or in consequence of, childbirth was 4, 3 from sepsis and 1 from other causes.

The number of deaths of infants, under one year, per 1,000 births, was 71.2 legitimate, 8.8 illegitimate; total 80.0. This is a decrease compared with last year, when it was 94.3.

The deaths from Measles (all ages) were 2.

The deaths from Whooping Cough were 0.

The deaths from Diarrhœa (under 2 years) were 3.

A table supplied by the Registrar-General, giving causes of all deaths in the district, is appended.

SEDGLEY URBAN DISTRICT.
Causes of Death during the Year 1921.

CAUSES OF DEATH (CIVILIANS ONLY)						MALES	FEMALES
All Causes	...	..	...	...	...	110	96
1 Enteric fever	...	...	...	...	...	0	0
2 Small-pox	...	...	...	...	...	0	0
3 Measles	...	...	...	...	...	2	0
4 Scarlet fever	...	...	...	...	...	0	0
5 Whooping cough	...	...	...	...	...	0	0
6 Diphtheria	...	..	...	...	...	3	1
7 Influenza	...	...	...	...	...	5	6
8 Encephalitis lethargica	...	...	...	...	...	0	0
9 Meningococcal meningitis	...	...	...	...	...	0	0
10 Tuberculosis of respiratory system...	...	...	...	...	...	5	5
11 Other tuberculous diseases	...	...	...	...	...	0	0
12 Cancer, malignant disease	...	...	...	...	...	6	8
13 Rheumatic fever	...	...	...	...	...	1	0
14 Diabetes	...	..	...	...	...	2	4
15 Cerebral hæmorrhage, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	4	3
16 Heart disease	...	...	...	...	...	10	8
17 Arterio-sclerosis	...	...	...	...	...	1	0
18 Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	...	10	5
19 Pneumonia (all forms)	...	...	...	...	...	20	10
20 Other respiratory diseases	...	...	...	...	...	0	0
21 Ulcer of stomach or duodenum	...	...	...	...	...	0	1
22 Diarrhœa, etc. (under 2 years)	...	...	...	...	...	0	3
23 Appendicitis and typhlitis	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
24 Cirrhosis of liver	...	...	...	...	...	0	1
25 Acute and chronic nephritis	...	...	...	...	...	3	2
26 Purpuræal sepsis	...	...	...	...	...	0	3
27 Other accidents and diseases of pregnancy and parturition	...	...	...	...	...	0	1
28 Congenital debility and malformation, premature birth	...	...	...	...	...	13	5
29 Suicide	...	...	...	...	...	1	0
30 Other deaths from violence	...	...	...	...	...	4	0
31 Other defined diseases	...	...	...	...	...	19	28
32 Causes ill-defined or unknown	...	...	...	...	...	0	1
Special Causes (included above)							
Poliomyelitis						0	0
Polioencephalitis						0	0
Deaths of Infants under 1 year	Total					22	10
	Illegitimate					3	1
Total Births	...	...	...	...	...	237	212
Legitimate	...	...	...	...	...	230	208
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	...	7	4
Population	...	...	...	...	...	17,670	

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The infectious diseases notified during the year were as follows:—Scarlet fever 77, Diphtheria 27, Puerperal fever 4, Pneumonia 9, Pulmonary tuberculosis 10, Non-Pulmonary tuberculosis 5, Erysipelas 8, and Ophthalmia neonatorum 2. Below is shewn a table with the deaths from these diseases arranged, according to age, and with the zymotic death rate as compared with that for England and Wales.

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.

Both cases were treated at the Eye Infirmary, Wolverhampton, and both recovered with vision unimpaired

The ratio of non-notified tuberculosis deaths to total tuberculosis deaths, is 0 to 1. Notification of tuberculosis is efficient.

CAUSES OF SICKNESS.

Influenza has been the most prominent cause of sickness throughout 1921. It was very prevalent during the whole of the year, and whilst not of such a severe character as that of previous epidemics, it was noteworthy that recovery was slow, long convalescence being the rule. There was much distress, approaching actual want, from unemployment, and the general health of the workers was thereby undermined. This accentuated the suffering from Influenza, and was the probable cause of the delay in recovery.

There were many cases of aberrant type, simulating other diseases, the most prominent symptoms being naso-pharyngeal catarrh, otorrhœa, vertigo, gastritis, neuritis and lumbago. In a few cases an erisipelatous rash was observed, and severe headache was common to all.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING YEAR 1921.

DISEASE	Total Cases Notified	Cases A'mitt'd to Hospital	DEATHS ARRANGED UNDER AGES.										Total Deaths	Zymotic Death Rate	
			Under 1 Year	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-35	35-45		45-65	65 & over	England & Wales	Sedgley U.D.
Diphtheria ...	27	0	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.12	0.22
Scarlet Fever ...	77	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.03	0.00
Enteric Fever (including Para Typhoid) ...	0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.02	0.00
Puerperal Fever ...	4	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
Pneumonia (all forms) ...	9	...	9	8	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
Pulmonary Tuberculosis { M. F.	5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
	5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis { M. F.	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
3	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.00	0.00
Small-pox ...	0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
Cholera ...	0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
Plague ...	0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
Cerebus Spinal Fever ...	0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis ...	0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
Acute Polio Encephalitis ...	0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
Encephalitis Lethargica...	0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
Typhus Fever ...	0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
Relapsing Fever ...	0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
Continued Fever ...	0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
Trench Fever ...	0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
Dysentery ...	0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
Erysipelas ...	8	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
Malaria ...	0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
Chicken-pox ...	0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
Measles ...	0	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.06	0.11
Whooping Cough ...	0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	2	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
Total	145	3	10	9	2	2	0	3	1	0	9	3	6	4	49

SUMMARY OF NURSING ARRANGEMENTS, HOSPITALS, AND OTHER INSTITUTIONS AVAILABLE FOR THE DISTRICT.

The Sedgley Urban District Nursing Association provides for the nursing in this area, both general and obstetric.

The Local Authority pays a small gratuity annually (£25) on the understanding that the Association provides nursing in epidemics. This includes the nursing of infectious disease, Measles, Scarlet fever, etc., if they become epidemic, but not in sporadic cases. The Association is governed by a Committee consisting of the members of the Health Committee and those ladies co-opted on to it as Welfare workers. Fees (6d. per visit general, 25/- obstetrical) are charged in all cases, and the Association is affiliated to the Staffordshire County Nursing Association. It is £200 in debt, the County Authority having repudiated their agreement to pay half the deficit. Four nurses are required as a minimum, and the fees collected are not sufficient to pay their wages, which average £140 each per annum.

The number of midwives practising in the district is six, four under the Nursing Association and two in private practice.

The Local Authority neither employs nor subsidises midwives, but this might well be done through the Nursing Association.

CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES.

A Maternity and Child Welfare Centre was inaugurated in 1917 in conjunction with Health visiting. This was carried out by the local Nursing Association, under the direction of the Medical Officer of Health, and was so successful that it was taken over by the County Authority on March 31st, 1920. It has continued to grow in importance, three nurses are now resident at the Centre, and a doctor attends weekly. Actual treatment is not given, and if such is needed, the mothers are referred to their own medical practitioner. Nominally the Centre is under the management of the Medical Officer of Health, but the actual control is in the hands

of the County Authority. The report of Nurse Lowe, the senior Health Visitor, is as follows:—

The work of the Infant Welfare Centre has made a distinct advance during the year. Attendances average 35 for 1921 at each session.

Consultations are held every Tuesday from 2 to 4 p.m., with a visiting Doctor and two Health Visitors in attendance.

We have organised a Summer Outing Fund and Thrift Club.

Much has been done in the improved clothing of children in this district, but there is still wide scope for advancement.

Tuesday, August the 9th, Miss Howl, The Quarries, and the Committee gave a garden party and sports. One hundred and fifty mothers attended.

The following ladies are members of the Voluntary Workers' Committee:—Mrs. Wise (Secretary), Miss Howl, Mrs. Foster, Mrs. McMillan, Mrs. Law, Miss Hughes, Mrs. Tomlinson, Mrs. Wakelam.

The total number of Health visits paid during 1921 was 6,512 to children under 5 years of age, and 231 to expectant mothers.

A table is appended giving particulars relating to the work for the year:—

School Clinics are attended at the schools by a visiting doctor and Nurse Boulton. Verminous cases, fortunately few in number, are treated at the Welfare Centre.

Venereal disease is treated at the General Hospital, Wolverhampton.

Tuberculosis is treated at the Tuberculosis Dispensaries in Wolverhampton and Dudley, under the scheme of the National Health Insurance Act.

Hospitals provided or subsidised by Local Authorities, or County Councils, for (a) Tuberculosis, The Dispensary, The Firs,

MATERNITY AND INFANT WELFARE.

Particulars relating to the work during the Year 1921.

Health Visitors : T. LOWE and N. DUFFY. District : SEDGLEY.

Births				First Visits			Revisits			Total Visits		
Registered	Transfers from other Districts during the month				Children			Children			Children	
	Under ten days		Over ten days and under one year		Expectant Mothers	Under one year		Expectant Mothers	Under one year		Expectant Mothers	Between 1 and 5 years
	L	I	L	I								
L	I											
445	31		8	2	14			94	6039		231	6512

Children on Visiting List at end of Year		Deaths and Removals of Children on Visiting List during 1921										Welfare Centre				No. of cases of insanitary conditions reported to Medical Officer of Health						
Under One Year	One Year and under five	Under ten days				Over ten days and under one year				No. on books				Total No. of Attendances								
		Deaths		Removals		Deaths		Removals		Expectant Mothers	Children		Expectant Mothers	Children			Health Visitor					
		L	I	L	I	L	I	L	I		Under one year	B'tween 1 and 5 years		Under one year	B'tween 1 and 5 years							
386	1249	4	1	—	—	L	I	22	I	L	I	19	I	26	—	41	186	66	1077	552	88	45

L.—Legitimate. I.—Illegitimate. August 9th 1921 Mothers attended Garden Party.

Dudley, and Bell Street, Wolverhampton. (b) Maternity, none. (c) Children, none. (d) Fever, none. (e) Small-pox, the Local Authority has a share in the Conjoint Small-pox Hospital. (f) Other, arrangements have been made for the treatment of Typhoid fever, and Diphtheria, in the General Hospital, Wolverhampton.

The hospitals available for the district are all situate outside. These are:—Wolverhampton, the General Hospital, the Women's Hospital, and the Eye Infirmary; Dudley, the Guest Hospital, which also treats eye cases.

No institutional treatment is provided for unmarried mothers or illegitimate children, but homeless children are looked after by the Guardians.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

1. Infectious Cases.—An ambulance is provided by the Conjoint Board for the removal of Small-pox cases, otherwise there is none.

2. Accident Cases.—No ambulance is available for general use. Baggeridge Colliery owns one for private use.

LABORATORY WORK.

By arrangement, pathological and bacteriological specimens may be sent for examination to the Birmingham University Laboratory, and the General Hospital, Wolverhampton. Neither of these have been made use of during 1921. Diphtheria antitoxin is provided by the Local Authority, and Influenza vaccine may also be obtained upon application to the Medical Officer of Health.

LIST OF ADOPTIVE ACTS, BYE-LAWS & REGULATIONS relating to Public Health in force in the district, and date of adoption.

Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1890.

Parts 2, 3 and 5 adopted July, 1891.

Infectious Disease Notification Act, 1889, adopted January, 1891.

Infectious Disease Prevention Act, 1890, adopted May, 1891.

Bye-laws :—New Streets & Buildings, confirmed November, 1911.

Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops Regulations, confirmed July, 1900.

Tents, Vans, etc., Regulations, confirmed November, 1911.

Slaughter-house Regulations, confirmed November, 1900.

WATER SUPPLY.

The whole of this district is supplied with water by the South Staffordshire Waterworks Company. The supply is constant and of good quality. Many of the cottages are supplied from stand-pipes serving groups of cottages. This arrangement is not satisfactory, the distance in some cases being greater than is desirable. In addition to the inconvenience, this allows a large quantity to be wasted owing to taps being left open, often for days together. There are still several isolated cottages without a proper supply of water, there being no mains available. This applies to two cottages known as 1 and 2, Straits Green, and the Conquerors Farm, Straits Green.

Four thousand seven hundred yards of water mains have been laid on the Housing sites, and during the year water has been laid on to 86 houses, of which 82 were new houses. The majority of our houses are provided with rain water wells or cisterns, the water being used largely for washing and cleansing purposes.

SANITARY ADMINISTRATION.

Drainage and Sewerage.

Except for a small sewage disposal works provided to deal with the drainage of 250 houses at Sedgley, the district is unsewered.

The conservancy system is general throughout the district, there being 2,553 privies with fixed receptacles, and 2,031 ashpits. The ashbins number 179, the water closets 299, and the privies converted 3.

The removal and disposal of house refuse is carried out by the Council by direct labour; 13,558 loads of refuse were removed, against 12,991 last year. Complaints have been fewer, and the standard attained is better, but much further improvement is needed in this direction. The Council have now given instructions for all ashbins to be emptied weekly.

Inspection of Places where Food is prepared.

With the exception of Bakehouses, Slaughter-houses and Cowsheds, which provide for local needs only, there are no businesses dealing with the preparation of food.

Slaughter-houses.—The whole of the Slaughter-houses are subject to annual licence. There are 12 slaughter-houses on the register, three of which are not in use. The situation of three of those in use is quite unsuitable for conducting the business of slaughtering, owing to their close proximity to dwelling houses. The other six are kept in fairly good condition. Slaughtering is conducted at all hours, and a satisfactory system of inspection of meat, at the time of slaughter, is impracticable under present conditions. All slaughter-houses are limewashed periodically according to regulations. The system in operation during Food Control, when slaughtering was confined to two places, was much more satisfactory. The need of a better system of controlling the slaughter of food animals is urgent, and the provision of public abattoirs to supply the requirements of defined areas is a matter which should receive immediate consideration.

Bakehouses.—There are 18 retail bakehouses on the register, 14 of which are in use. They are inspected periodically. Statutory limewashing has been carried out, and the premises are kept in a satisfactory condition of cleanliness. Eight of the largest bakehouses are modern, and in good structural condition.

Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops.—There are 23 cowkeepers and 5 retailers registered for the sale of milk. There are no cowsheds to which Part 2 of the Regulations apply. Periodical inspections are made to secure cleansing and limewashing.

A supply of water from the mains of the S.S.W.W. Co. has been laid on to premises at 65, High Street, Sedgley, over 220 yards of service pipe being laid for that purpose. It has not been necessary to take any proceedings for contravention of the regulations.

The County Council is the authority for the enforcing of the Sale of Food and Drugs Acts, and the Milk and Cream Regulations.

GENERAL HOUSING CONDITIONS.

There are 3,434 houses in the district, and with the exception of six, all are inhabited. Of the six void houses, four are under demolition orders, and two under closing orders.

All but 5% of our houses are working class houses, and the majority of these are of an inferior type, the standard of accommodation being far below present-day requirements. 2,792 houses are of a rateable value up to £8, and 2,266 of these are under £6 rateable value. Our housing conditions are now being greatly improved, and a considerable amount of overcrowding has been remedied. A great number of our smaller houses are still overcrowded, but these conditions are now being attended to as the new houses become ready for occupation. As far as circumstances would permit, the Housing and Town Planning, etc., Act has been brought into operation, details of which are summarised in another part of this report.

HOUSING.

Number of new houses erected during the year:—

(a) Total	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	82
(b) As part of a municipal housing scheme	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	77

1. Unfit dwelling houses.

Inspection—(1) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	395
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910	...
	30

(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	6
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	24

2. Remedy of Defects without Service of formal Notices.

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	13
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3. Action under Statutory Powers.

A.—Proceedings under section 28 of the Housing, Town Planning, etc., Act, 1919.

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	31
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit :—	
(a) by owners	17
(b) by Local Authority in default of owners	3
(3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by owners of intention to close	nil

B.—Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	76
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied :—	
(a) by owners	65
(b) by Local Authority in default of owners	

C.—Proceedings under sections 17 and 18 of the Housing, Town Planning, etc., Act, 1909.

(1) Number of representations made with a view to the making of Closing Orders	8
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(2) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made	5
(3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the dwelling-houses having been rendered fit	...	...	...	...	...	7
(4) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	...	...	...	...	...	5
(5) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	...	...	...	...	...	4

HOUSING SCHEMES.

The scheme for providing 800 houses on three sites, situated at Sedgley, Upper Gornal, and Lower Gornal, has been delayed by the abnormal conditions met with during the year. In the early part of the year there was a very pronounced shortage of bricklayers, and very few plasterers were obtainable, and this, together with the difficulties experienced in obtaining building materials, owing to the closing down of the coal mining industry, caused unavoidable delay. Rapid progress is now being made, and 750 men are employed on the works.

The first eight houses to be completed were on the Beacon site, Sedgley. These were occupied on the 1st August last, and at the end of the year 77 houses had been completed and occupied, 74 at Sedgley and 3 at Lower Gornal.

Considerable difficulty was experienced by the Housing Committee in allocating the houses, owing to the urgency and pressing claims of many of the applicants. The claims of ex-Service men continue to receive first consideration. The following is a summary of the applicants accepted as tenants :—

1. Ex-Service men, married and in lodgings	...	51
2. Ex-Service men, married and householders	...	5
3. Other applicants, married and in lodgings	...	10
4. Other applicants, married and householders	...	11
Total		77

Most of the applicants in Category 4 were provided with houses in order to enable ex-service men to obtain possession of their own houses.

At the end of the year 712 houses had been commenced, 416 were roofed in, and 156 plastered.

The following summary, supplied by the Building Superintendent, shews the progress made on each of the sites up to the end of the year; also the progress up to April 5th, 1922:—

Summary of Works to December 31st, 1921.

Stage.	Beacon.	Up.Gornal.	Lr.Gornal.
Commenced	352	156	204
Foundations in and damp course laid	348	156	164
First floor laid	232	112	144
Roofed in	218	84	114
Plastering finished, ready for painting	128	8	20
Drains and water supply laid ...	94	—	20
Ready for occupation	82	—	8

Summary of Works to date, April 5th, 1922.

Commenced	388	156	204
Foundations in and damp course laid	348	156	178
First floor joists laid	284	140	164
Roofed in	252	118	152
Plastering finished, ready for painting	182	24	34
Ready for occupation	136	—	14

GENERAL REMARKS.

The health of the district has been, on the whole, good. In spite of the incidence of an epidemic of Influenza, the death rate is only 11.1, as compared with 13.5 for last year, and 12.1 for England and Wales. Our birth rate is 25.4 per 1,000, as compared with 29.9 last year, but is much higher than that for England and Wales, which is 22.4. I append the table supplied by the Registrar-General for comparative purposes.

BIRTH RATE, DEATH RATE, and ANALYSIS of MORTALITY during the Year 1921.

(Provisional figures. Populations as enumerated in 1921 have been used for the purposes of this Table. The mortality rates refer to the whole population as regards England and Wales, but only to civilians as regards London and the groups of towns).

	BIRTH-RATE PER 1,000 TOTAL POPULA- TION	ANNUAL DEATH-RATE PER 1,000 POPULATION.										RATE PER 1,000 BIRTHS		PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL DEATHS			
		All Causes	Enteric Fever	Small-pox	Measles	Scarlet Fever	Whooping Cough	Diphtheria	Influenza	Violence	Diarrhoea and Enteritis (under 2 Years)	Total Deaths under One Year	Deaths in Public Institutions	Certified Causes of Death	Inquest Cases	Uncertified Causes of Death	
England and Wales ...	22·4	12·1	0·02	0·00	0·06	0·03	0·12	0·12	0·23	0·44	15·5	83	25·5	92·5	6·4	1·1	
96 Great Towns, includ- ing London (1911 Census Populations exceeding 50,000)	23·3	12·3	0·01	0·00	0·08	0·04	0·13	0·15	0·23	0·40	19·3	87	33·2	92·5	6·8	0·7	
148 Smaller Towns (1911 Census Popula- tions 20,000—50,000)	22·7	11·3	0·01	0·00	0·05	0·03	0·11	0·11	0·26	0·35	15·6	84	17·7	93·5	5·1	1·4	
London	22·3	12·4	0·01	—	0·05	0·06	0·12	0·25	0·23	0·42	21·3	80	49·2	91·6	8·2	0·2	

An examination of this table, and a comparison with the figures supplied in this report, shews that your district, whilst having nothing to be proud of, is holding its own with others.

Naturally in a district which has a scheme providing three sites for the building of 800 houses, not only sanctioned, but actually in the earlier period urged on by the Ministry, housing has been the chief topic of interest during the year. Great progress has been made in the erecting of the new houses, as can be seen by referring to the figures supplied earlier in this report.

A considerable amount of feeling exists in Lower Gornal owing to the non-completion of more houses on the Summer Lane site. The failure to obtain land for sewage disposal works is responsible for this. Three sites have been selected, but in each case it has been impossible to persuade the owner to sell.

Much bitterness and discontent is apparent amongst those waiting for new houses, and as these are people living under the worst of conditions, it is regrettable that the existing powers are not sufficiently strong to insist on the needs of the community being served without the interminable delay, which appears unavoidable, whenever any opposition on the part of the landowner is met with.

Combined with my report is that of your Sanitary Inspector, which furnishes details of work in his department not already covered.

Thanking the Chairman, Councillors and my brother officers, more especially your Inspector, to whom much of the success of my department is due, for their hearty co-operation during the year.

I have the honour to remain,

Your obedient Servant,

ALEX. M. McMILLAN.

April 12th, 1922.

REPORT
OF THE
SANITARY INSPECTOR
FOR THE YEAR 1921.

Inspector's Office,
Council House,
Sedgley.

*To the Chairman and Members of the Sedgley Urban
District Council.*

GENTLEMEN,

In presenting my report for the year 1921, I beg to state that, owing to the re-arrangement of Annual Reports now required by the Ministry of Health, summaries of work hitherto forming part of the report of your Sanitary Inspector will now be found embodied in the report of your Medical Officer of Health.

In order, therefore, to avoid duplication, I am submitting only such explanatory details, and references to matters outstanding, which may be regarded as essential to supplement the information already furnished by your Medical Officer of Health.

HOUSING.

Under the provisions of the Housing Inspection Regulations, 1910, I have inspected 30 houses, 6 of which I found to be unfit for human habitation, and 24 not in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation.

In the course of other inspections 2 houses were reported unfit for human habitation, and 7 houses not in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation.

The action taken to remedy these conditions is as follows :—

Thirty-one notices were served under the provisions of Section 28 Housing, Town Planning, etc., Act, 1919, specifying the amendments, repairs, and cleansing required to be executed.

In 20 cases the notices have been complied with—17 by owners and 3 by the Council in default of owners.

In the 11 notices outstanding, part of the work has been carried out by the owners and is being proceeded with.

The premises where the work was carried out by the Council in default of the owners is 2, Holloway Street, Upper Gornal, and 11 and 12, Brook Street, Lower Gornal.

A summons was issued against the owner of the first-named property for the recovery of the costs incurred. This was settled by the defendant immediately prior to the case being heard, the amount paid being £54 0s. 0d. and £2 2s. 0d. costs.

The costs in the other two cases remain to be dealt with.

During the year 40 houses have been rendered fit for human habitation, of which 7 were under Closing Orders and 13 not under Closing Orders, the remaining 20 being dealt with under the provisions of Section 28 Housing, Town Planning, etc., Act, 1919.

The Closing Orders revoked are as follows :—

57 and 58, Castle Street.

21, Gate Street.

9, 10, 11 and 12, Lake Street.

Four houses have been demolished, namely :—

12, Monument Lane.

54 and 55, Summer Lane.

23, Abbey Road.

Closing and Demolition Orders.

The following 45 houses are under Closing Orders, 40 of which were issued prior to 1921 :—

34, 35, 36 and 37, Ruiton Street.

34, Summer Lane.

17, Gospel End.

99, 100, 101, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 108, 109 and 110, Bath Street.

22, 23, 24 and 25, Dudley Road.

17a and 35, Castle Street.

87, Gospel End Street.

13, Tipton Street.

1, Beacon Court, Bilston Street.

43, 44, 45 and 46, Bilston Street.

1, Cricket Meadow.

18, 19, 20, 21, 21a, 21b and 21c, Clarence Street.

1, Pale Street.

25b and 27, Holloway Street.

69, King's Road.

24a and 34, Kent Street.

1, Duke Street.

The houses now under Demolition Orders number 36, 31 of which were issued prior to 1921. They are as follows :—

58, Jews Lane.

37, Musk Lane.

29, Summit Place.

31, Vale Street.

3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10, Victoria Terrace.

35 and 36, Summer Lane.

38, 39 and 91, Ruiton Street.

29, Cooper's Bank Road.

22, Abbey Road.

39, 40, 41, 42, 43 and 44, Gospel End.

74, 75, 76, 77 and 78, Ruiton Street.

16a, Castle Street.

12, 13, 14, 14a and 15, Tower Street.

Proceedings under the Public Health Act.

Prosecutions were taken against two owners for non-compliance with notices to remedy defects, as follows :—

18 to 23, Tudor Place (6 houses).

Foul and defective condition of houses and outbuildings.

After two adjournments to enable the work to be completed, defendant was ordered to pay costs £2 12s. 6d.

Malvern View, Highland Road.

House damp and defective, W.C. without proper flushing apparatus.

After an adjournment to enable the work to be executed, defendant was ordered to pay costs £3 3s.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

W. WANE,

Sanitary Inspector.

